During many years of a pretty close attention to the debates of Congress we think we may safely say that not less than one half of the whole time consumed in discussion was devoted to "platitudinal" harangues on "the rights of the States," but seldom a word on State duties; and every body sees to his sorrow what the constant, irritating and long-continued pressing of that one-sided view of our political system has led to. As by one section, chiefly, if not alone, this narrow and mischievous view of constitutional rights was maintained and incessantly agitated, by that section at last was the doctrine carried out to its practical consequences of secession and civil war; and the question has now to be arbitrated by force of arms, and by the capacity of either party for endurance of the calamities of war in its sternest forms. To utter anew any thing in the shape of argument on the merits of the direful contest, or on the causelessness and wickedness of its inception, would be the merest waste of labor. It was the mission of this journal, during the many years that the mischievous doctrine was agitated, to oppose a steady, if feeble, opposition to it, as of pernicious tendency, if not fraught with ultimate ruin. All efforts, however, to stay the progress of the irrational disaffection proved abortive, until eventually it culminated in open rebellion. But, though the province of argument is at an end. a voice has reached us from a far away recess of the Rocky Mountains, in the shape of the subjoined communication, to which, for the soundness of its principles, the force of its logic, and the brief space within which the writer condenses a comprehersive legal argument, we give a place.

INDEPENDENCE OF THE SOUTH. The Southern States were parties to the Constitution of the United States, and they cannot absolve themselves therefrom except by consent of a majority of the people of the United States, or by revolution, with justifiable cause. Territories do not necessarily include inhabitants.

The Constitution invests Congress with authority to le gislate in respect to the Territories and other property of the United States.

Congress has a direct right to legislate for the Territories in all cases whatsoever. Congress might legislate upon the subject of slavery in

the Territories, or it might prescribe that the people of the Territories might legislate upon the subject, and that it would, in its discretion, adopt the acts of the people. The people of the United States, through Congress, have the right to legislate for the Territories without re-

gard to the laws of any particular State or States. The fact is, Congress has a constitutional right either to prohibit or protect slavery in the Territories of the United

Slavery is a political evil, and if Congress prohibits i in the Territories, it does what it justly and constitutionally has a right to do, and no part of the country can either justly or constitutionally complain.

The idea that a State can, without justifiable cause, fight its way clear of its constitutional compacts, is not consistent with just and sound law.

Southern States may continue the war for fifty years, and get their independence acknowledged by every Power of Europe, and by duress of imprisonment or force of arms compel the people and Government of the United States to acknowledge their independence, but all such acknowledgments will not absolve them from their consti tutional compacts.

If the people of a State of the Union, appealing to the ballot-box, voluntarily express a desire to withdraw from the Union, we will vote to release them, if, considering all right to release them; but the idea that a State can at pleasure take up arms and fight its way clear of its constitutional compacts is not consistent with just and sound law, and should not be received.

No State of the Union can become de jure independent of the Union without the consent of a majority of the people of the Union, or by revolution with justifiable cause. DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTIONALIST

We are glad to hear that the Baron Von Gz-ROLT, the esteemed Minister Plenipotentiary of Prussia, has returned to Washington in good health, from a visit of leave of a few months to his sown country.

LIEUT. GEN. SCOTT once more begs to be spared by correspondents-principally applicants for autographs -as he cannot answer one in thirty of the letters he re-November, 1864.

ELECTION IN KANSAS.

The election in Kaneas is reported in a muddle. There was a McClellan ticket run for electors, but no McClellan State ticket. State and Congressional tickets were Lane and anti-Lane. Democrats fused with the anti-Lane. A despatch from St. Joseph claims the election of the Lane ticket. The Leavenworth Times of the 10th says:

"The Presidential Electors are Marcus J. Parrott and the two highest on the McClellan ticket. The Lane Electors may have polled the greatest number of votes, but ineligible under the Constitution, and will be re ed by the Electoral College. Lane has thus suc in defeating the will of the people of Kansas, and affixed upon the State the indelible stigms of securing two Presidential Electors for McClellan."

The St. Louis Union says :

"There were two Union State tickets run in Kansas at the late election, one called the Lane ticket, the other the The returns thus far received show that the Lane ticket has been beaten by a large majority. Lea venworth county gives 800 majority against it. There was but one ticket for Presidential electors, and both parties

WASHINGTON RUMORS.

Correspondence of the New York Evening Post. The President and a few officials have gone on a tri down the Polomac to Fortress Mouroe. They are expected back in a day or two.

The arrest of Lieut. Gov. Jacobs, of Kentucky, is likely to bring the disloyal authorities of that State to their sens: s. There are rumors here of a wide-spread conspira or in that State-not to take it over to the rebel Confede racy, but to inaugurate a second revolution, the object of which is to make Kentucky independent of the General Government. [Ridiculous !]

The Secretary of the Treasury has not yet fully decided upon his policy for the winter. He must have more money -not less than one hundred millions by the first of January. The only point which he has decided is that under no circumstances will be increase the amount of legaltender notes in circulation. He has been urged by prominext financiers to bring down the premium upon gold by offering it to the merchants of our large cities for purely business purposes at a fixed rate—say 175 or 200 premium. It is well known that when Mr. Chase resigned his place he was convinced of the propriety of adopting this course, and was about to make the experiment. There are serious objections to it, and so far Mr. Fessenden is undecided upon the subject. His chief aim this winter will be to sustain the value of the currency, and to obtain what money is needed to prosecute the war. Congress will be called upon for more legislation.

GEN. McCLELLAN'S RESIGNATION.

A New York contemporary, in announcing Gen. McClellan's resignation of his commission in the army, has thought it an opportune occasion for a succinct outline of that distinguished officer's military career since the Southern rebellion recalled him to the public service. In transferring this able article to our own columns, we are certainly moved by no inclination to keep alive the expiring embers of party fires; but simply to do an act of parting justice to the character of a citizen whom we conceive to have served his country with singular fidelity, distinction, and usefulness, yet who, unfortunately for himself, being by the ad miration and gratitude of a numerous body of his fellow-countrymen put forward as a candidate for the Chief Magistracy, has suffered from the assaults of unscrupulous partisans much misconstruction and injustice, from which we would fain rescue his fair fame, as we would that of any other illustrious countryman, of whatever sect or party. We know Gen. McClellan only from current official history, for it so happens that we have never seen him, and our support of him has been on purely public and disinterested grounds, but if we could envy any man his renown, we could envy him the page which his name will occupy in the annals of his country.

From the New York World. On the 8th instant, the day of the election, Gen. Mc CLELLAN addressed a letter to the PRESIDENT resigning his commission in the army, and requesting that his resignation might be allowed to date from that day. As he could not then know whether he resigned to become a private citizen, or resigned to become the President-elect of the United States, the time was appropriately and gracefully chosen. As he is not accustomed to act from any impulses, but acts always from deliberately formed reasons, it is doubtless correct to infer that it was his purpose, if not elected, to retire wholly to private life. We hope that his resignation will be accepted, for we have no belief that his determination can be changed. We do not know that any one connected with the Administration will wish to change it.

Regarding this resignation, then, as a historical fact, it is not inappropriate to look back upon the reputation which has been achieved since the period of Gen. McClellan's public services commenced.

What strange vicissitudes have marked this fragment of his life! While holding the commission which he has now resigned he received the appointment of General in Chief on the 1st day of November, 1861, and in that capacity formed and organized and disciplined the Army of the Potomac, and laid out the great campaigns which were to be undertaken by all the armies of the United States. On the 1st of April, 1862, he left Washington, at the head of the Army of the Potomac, to conduct the campaign of the Peninsula, which he had planned for the capture of Rich mond. As he advanced into Virginia, one after another of the great features of his meditated campaign was frustrated by the Government behind him; one after another of the reinforcements promised to him was withheld, and the control of the war was taken from his hands. At length, after a successful siege of Yorktown, he found himself in front of Richmond, with his principal base resting upon the York river, at the head of about ninety thousand men, to encounter an enemy numbering one hundred and forty thousand: and there, in the face of such a foe, the rein forcements which would have added forty thousand men to his command were deliberately halted on their march, and the bridges which should have enabled the junction to be effected were deliberately destroyed by order of his own Government.

Nothing remained for Gen. McClellan but to save his army, and to this end he executed, in the most brillian manner, one of the most difficult and bezardous of movements, by marching his army on its left flank, through a series of battles, lasting for seven days, to a new base ipon the James river, where he placed it in safety out of the reach of the enemy, whom he had baffled, discomfitted, and crippled on the way. There he waited in vain for reinforcements which his Government had not the courage to send, and for orders which it lacked the wisdom to give, that he might again march upon the enemy's capial, until by a strange and inexplicable folly his army was detached from his command and sent to join the army of Gen. Pope, then in front of Washington. Attended solely by his staff and a guard of one hundred men, this great commander was forced to sit in his tent at Alexandria, to hear the guns with which the enemy were driving the compined forces under Pope in confusion toward Washington, and to have his earnest entreaty to be with his own men on the field of battle simply as a volunteer refused. The result, made inevitable by the folly, imbecility, and malice which presided in the councils of the Administration, was the utter defeat of the Federal troops, which were thrown back upon the capital shattered, disorganized, and demora-

lizad. Laying aside all considerations of self, this more than patriotic General vielded to the entreaties of his official superiors, met the almost ruined forces of his country on their hurried retreat, restored order, re-animated the troops with the courage that had left them only because they had been deprived of him, placed Washington in a condition of defence, led the army into Maryland, and within two weeks marched it fifty miles, fought two pitched battles, gained two victories, and drove the enemy from the State. Resting for a season until his exhausted troops could receive the material and supplies absolutely necessary to their advance, he conducted them across the Potomac in pursuit of the enemy, on whom he was just about to inflict another defeat, when, without explanation and without any assigned cause, he was suddenly removed

from the command and sent ignominiously into retirement Meanwhile, as these events were progressing, it began to dawn upon all classes of the people of this country who were not blinded by mere partisan prejudice, that this young man who had suddenly appeared upon the theatre of this civil war as an accomplished General, of rare and wide scope in his profession, was also a wise, considerate and able statesman, looking before and after, to the great civil as well as military issues of his time. It began to be rumored that he had deep convictions respecting the policy which should govern the military operations of the Gov ernment; that these convictions were founded in the just limitations of the Federal powers and in the humane laws and maxims of civilized warfare; and that he had striven to impress these views upon the conduct of the Adminis tration. It became known, too, that before his removal from command his public policy in respect to the methods and objects of the war had drawn upon him the detestation of a faction which would scruple at nothing to accomplish his destruction, even if the interests of the country were destroyed with him. So that, at the moment of his removal from all active service, he was inevitably followed into his forced retirement by the hopes of all that portion of his countrymen who desired to see a vigorous administra tion of affairs united with conservative efforts to save the Constitution and the Union from the ruin which radical counsels and measures were rapidly preparing for them. The publication of his despatches, and the revelation of the treatment he had received, confirmed the popular belief in his eminent capacities both as a soldier and a statesman; while the extraordinary forbearance which he had exhibited, the purity of his patriotic devotion to the public good and the moral elevation of his whole character, marked him as a man of the utmost importance to his time and to the country. His nomination to the Presidency was just as naturally and as inevitably the result of his history and character as was the selection of Washington for the same

A sufficient number of the people of the United State have sanctioned, by their votes, the policy of the Lincoln Administration, to make it clear that such a man as Gen. McClellan can no longer serve in a military capacity in the further prosecution of that policy. Even if officers of an inferior grade, once in the army during a civil war, can reasonably be expected to ignore the policy of their Government, and to leave all such questions to the civil depart-

ment, it would be quite absurd to require such a course of | General who has filled such relations to this war, and to the objects and methods of its prosecution, as those in which Gen. McClellan has stood. It is obviously impossible for him to fight in a war of extermination, of rapine and devastation, of disregard of constitutional restraints and of violation of constitutional rights. He is not a soldier of fortune, but a soldier of principle. When he offered his sword to the Government of his country he had a right to presume, and did presume, that the war would be proscented for the simple purpose of the restoration of the Union. When this ceased to be the course pursued by the Administration he could not voluntarily quit the service while there was a hope that the people would intervene and command a return to a constitutional and humane and therefore effective policy. The people having now endorsed Mr. Lincoln's Administration, there can be no longer any claim upon Gen. McClellan to continue standing ready to serve an Administration which has kept him in forced retirement for a period of nearly two years, which dismissed him from active service with every mark of indignity after he had saved the capital of the nation from an invading foe, and which has never since that day proposed to give him a command without coupling the proposal with the dishonorable condition that he should desert the political principles which he has always professed, and on which he has always acted.

But if there are any who are disposed to say that Gen. McClellan should serve the country without identifying the country with the Administration, they will doubtless be able to see, and to admit, that his patriotism is of that quality which has always led him to separate the country from the Administration, in considering what his obligations to the country embraced. They must also see that he alone can form a safe judgment as to his power to serve the country under or through Mr. Lincoln's Government. If he is eatisfied that he can no longer be useful to the country, now that the people have failed to command a change in its public councils, the only reasonable inquiry is, whether he served the country faithfully and truly so ong as he had the power, or the chance of a power, to serve it at all. On this point there can be no complaint: for no one, who considers that he ever possessed any faculty for military service, will deny that he struggled long and faithfully to use all that faculty for the public good, and those who deny him any faculty for military command will certainly not object to his retirement. Our own opinion is that he could not again undertake to serve without being followed into the field by the same impediments to his success as those which have heretofore been placed in his way, and that he and the country would, under existing circumstances, be alike powerless to restrain those who will never consent to his further usefulness or distinction. It is with deep sorrow that we record these convictions, but they are indelibly impressed upon us. We must reap what has been sown.

Gen. McClellan will be followed into his retirement with the gratitude, the admiration, and the affection of millions of his countrymen; and when they have acquired the means of enabling him to be of service to the country, and he is convinced that he can do them any good, it cannot be doubted that his patriotism will be found a living virtue, as it has ever been.

EXEMPTION OF CATHOLIC CLERGYMEN.

The St. Louis Republican of the 11th instant contains the following correspondence, which fully explains itself: ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY, OCT. 7, 1864.

Col. ALEXANDER: In my conversation on the 5th in tant, in reference to the drafting of Rev. John L'Espe rance, I had the honor of acquainting you that whilst in Washington (September 22d) I received a telegraphic despatch stating that two of our reverend brethren in Bardstown College, Kentucky, had been drafted; in consequence of which I applied to the Secretary of War, who gave immediate directions "that the reverend gentlemen drafted specially ordered by the Secretary of War. The provost parshal of their district will so inform them."

On the 29th ultimo I applied again at the office of the Secretary of War to obtain the like favor for any of our everend gentlemen in the different Western States. Col. James A. Hardie, Inspector General of the U. S. Army, assured me that all measures hid been taken to obviate very difficulty on the subject.

According to our religious principles, as a religious order in the Catholic Church, we cannot bear arms, etc., and go to war-our various houses have hardly the necessary number of persons to keep them up, and cannot be spared -the establishments are all in debt by the construction of necessary buildings for schools, colleges, etc. for the pub lie good.

Besides, Rev. John L'Esperance, Rev. Fathers Kelly and Zehan are also on the list of those who have been drafted. I have the honor to be, your obedient servant.

P. J. DE SMET, S. J. Col. ALEXANDER, Provost Marshal. This application was forwarded by Col. A. to the War

Department, and, after some delay, the following answer was returned : "Release on parole, to report when called upon by the Secretary of War, the following named members of the St. Louis University, drafted in St. Louis, Missouri : Rev

John L'Esperance, Joseph E. Kelley, John T. H. Sealer,

"JAMES B. FRY,

" Provost Marchal General." The above (says the Republican) virtually exempts the reverend gentlemen therein named, it being understood that the Secretary of War will make no call upon them for

and John W. O'Neill.

RESULT IN MARYLAND

Counties.					Lincoln.	Mc Clellan.
Allegany county					419	-
Inne Arund	el				416	1,574
Baltimore ci	ty				14,984	2.953
Baltimore co				2,576	2,662	
Carroll					2.057	1,885
Caroline					728	. 271
Calvert					33	243
Cecil .					1,757	1,521
Charles					27	967
Dorchester					_	_
Frederick					1.255	_
Harford					1,244	1,605
Howard		201			578	777
Kent					412	1,269
Montgomery				1	_	-,
Prince Geor					137	1,550
Queen Anne					_	1,088
Somereet					644	2,110
St. Mary's		0.0			99	987
Talbot	i Ei Iro		1000		578	267
Washington	100				1.566	
Worcester					_	-
Total					29,570	21,729

gomery, and Worcester counties, which, it is estimated vill give a combined majority for McClellan of 2,500 votes. Assuming this estimate the majority for Lincoln on the home vote will be 5,341, to which add the soldiers' vote thus far received, which gives a majority for Lincoln of 2,658 votes, and the total majority for Lincoln, thus far,

THE RESULT IN NEW YORK.

The electors of New York have given Abraham Lincoln small majority, probably from five to seven thousand, and Reuben E. Fenton is elected Governor by about the same figures. In 1860 Mr. Lincoln carried the State by 50,136 n a vote of 675,156. The vote will now exceed 750,000. But for the lack of facilities for voting in the city of New York, Gen. McClellan would have received the electoral vote of the State, and Horatic Seymour would have been Governor. But explanations are of no consequence. The popular will, as expressed through the ballot-box, determines the obligations of good citizens.-New York paper

EDICT AGAINST NEWSPAPERS.

The St. Louis Democrat states that General Ewing has saued an order, to take effect on Saturday, forbidding the issued an order, to take effect on Saturday, forbidding the circulation of the following named papers within the limits of his command: Chicago Times, Cincinnati Enquirer, New York Day Book, Freeman's Journal, Dayton Empire, New York News, Old Guard, and Metropolitan Record Commanding officers are required to close the shops of dealers hereafter issuing or found in possession of the same, and to cause to be arrested and sent to the fortifications those who may be found vending them on the streets.

SLAVERY AND SLAVE LABOR.

The November number of Hunt's Merchants' Magazine contains an elaborate article on the sub ject of slavery and slave labor, considered as an seconomic question, from the pen of HENRY B. AUCHINCLOSS, Esq.

The article discusses the advantages and disadvantages of the two kinds of labor, as experienced in the culture of sugar, but the argument is equally applicable to the cultivation of cotton and other staples of Southern production, and in elucidating his reasoning the writer exhibits in great detail the practical operation and statistics of the system of each kind of labor as it exists in the foreign sugar-growing countries of the world-the Sandwich Islands, Mauritius, Cuba, the West Indies, &c .- on all of which his article is replete with information, and will amply reward an attentive perusal by all candid inquirers after truth on the important subject-matter of the essay; indeed, if we may venture the suggestion, it might be read by President Lincoln himself with profit.

The writer, discussing the subject, as we have said, on economic grounds alone, is an advocate for free labor; but, entering somewhat into the question of emancipation, he presents views so philosophie, humane, and practical, and so applicable to the subject as now agitated in our own country, that we make a brief extract from that portion of the article for the edification of our Northern

But, before submitting the writer's views, in the wisdom and humanity of which we entirely concur, we will take the occasion to say, and feel free to say, that in regard to the policy, economically considered, and throwing out of view the moral or political aspects of the question, our own impressions in regard to the institution of slavery n our Southern States have undergone much change. Although long fully imbued with the sentiments on this subject which prevail in the South, and which were implanted by those causesbirth, education, and association-which mould every where the opinions and sympathies of men, we have for many years regarded slavery amongst us as a deciduous institution; and, brought by the drift of recent events to look at the subject under the revolution which has partially reached and still further menaces it, we much question whether the abrogation of the system of negro slavery, as it exists in our Southern States, will be as prejudicial to the interest and comfort of their present owners as is amongst them universally believed and deprecated. They cling most naturally to that on which, with numerous exceptions, perhaps, they are convinced that their prosperity and even their subsistence depends; but we are persuaded that, so far as legalized slavery is concerned, they are mistaken. We can imagine, indeed, that the extinction of this status of the servile race would redound ultimately, and soon, to the advantage of the whites as well as to that of the blacks. Our reasons for this view of the subject it is unnecessary as in Kentucky be not called on to report for service until it would be obtrusive for us to enter into; but certainly where there is abundance of insured labor in the presence of capital, it cannot be necessary to the interest of the latter to enslave the former. The mode of effecting this great social revolution in the South is all that now inspires us with anxiety, and is that which gives value in our eyes to the annexed remarks from the eulightened writer in the Magazine:

" There is an idea pretty generally received and credited that slave labor, especially Spanish slave labor as it exists in Cuba, is the cheapest in the world, and that no country can compete with Cuba on that account. We believe it to be an erroneous idea; and, moreover, we believe that intelligent Cubans, with their minds sharpened by the course of events in the United States, and the gradual difficulties which are gathering around the slave trade, and which will eventually crush it, give more thought than we are disposed to believe, or they themselves to confess, to the disadvantages of their system, its costliness and danger. "Let us freely grant, what every intelligent man can

see, that the sudden abolition of slavery in Cubs, in the present condition of the island, would absolutely rum it. and that its industry would cease for a generation to come. The story of Jamaica and San Domingo would be repeat ed; the free negro of the tropics will not work except under compulsion of some kind, and half a century would be needed to get rid of the lazy, worthless vagabonds, who for the trouble of planting a banana patch would be inde pendent of work, and to supply their place with laboring men. It is only within the last few years, since England has been supplying her colonies liberally with coolies from India and China, that the unhappy colony of Jamaica has begun to lift up its head. A little foresight a quarter of a century ago, would have saved many worthy men from ruin, and Jamaica would have kept the bigh rank among the enear countries of the world which she lost by the blind philanthropy of English abolitionists, whose zeal would not suffer them to wait until the negro was gradu ally prepared to support himself and the planter made independent of his services by the free importation of Asiatic laborers, which at this late day, after much misery, has been adopted as the salvation of the colony. The consequence of their zeal was that they ruined both master and slave. The master has passed through bankruptcy or lost his estate, and the Jamaica negro of to-day is a worthless creature. A gradual extinction of slavery, such as is now taking place in Brazil, would have saved the land from the curse of idleness. If, as the events of the last three years indicate, we of America are to possess our land free of slavery, it is also probable that, thanks to the energy of the white race, we shall possess it free of negroes. The history of the West Indies shows that free blacks either outnumber and ruin the whites, placing a curse on the most fertile countries of the world, or else, when placed in stern competition with men of European descent for daily bread, earned by daily labor, the black race dwindles away. The law is 'work or die,' and the lazy negroes, in nine eases out of ten, dislike work more than death.

"We have said that the slave system of Cuba, viewed aly in its economical light, as affording a supply of labor, s defective, costly, and dangerous.

"It is defective, because it is inadequate to the wants of the country without constant and large importations, and these are decreasing every year under the more effectual co-operation of English and American cruisers, and the gradual diminution in the number of slave importing countries. Cuba and Porto Rico are the last, and Porto Rico had but 41,029 slaves at the last census (1861) against 241,037 free blacks. Cuba is virtually the last great slave country of the world. The system is defective also in making inadequate provision for its continuance, strikingly shown in the relative proportion of men and women, and the diminution in the number of slaves as compared with that of free blacks."

TABLE OF DISTANCES. As matter of interest we compile the following table of

distances from Atlanta to the several points which have been mentioned as likely to be visited by Gen. Sherman:

Macon to Savanuah...... 190 Atlanta to Augusta..... 171 Atlanta to Lynchburg, Va...... 380 TERRIBLE EXPLOSION OF THE POTOMAC.

The Gunboat Tulip Blown Up and Fifty-six

Last Friday evening, about six o'clock, as the United States gunboat Tulip was steaming up the Potomac river, bound to Washington, her boiler exploded off Ragged Point, about thirty miles above the mouth of the river.

The boat was blown to pieces, and aut of the sixty-four fficers and men on board only ten were picked up alive. Two of the survivors died on Sunday, and three more are ensidered to be in a hopeless condition.

The commander of the boat, Wm H. Smith, was lost The only officers saved were executive officer Wagstaff, John Davidson, and Julian H. Reynolds, master's mates, and Benjamin F. Teal, engineer. The only person saved

entirely uninjured was Mr. Davidson, master's mate. We learn that this terrible calamity was caused by the engineer crowding too much steam upon a boiler known to be none of the strongest.

The survivors were picked up by a schooner and a small tug, after having been in the water forty minutes. Mr. Reynolds has a thigh broken. He was thrown up into the air a great distance and fell into the water, where he first became conscious of what had occurred.

The Tulip was one of the steamers built in New York for the Chinese Government, by contractors, and was purchased subsequently for our volunteer navy. She rated as a fourth-class screw steamer, and carried five guns. Ste was blown to pieces so completely that her hull disappeared below the surface in five minutes from the explo

The following official report was received at the Navy Department yesterdry morning :

UNITED STATES STEAMER DON Potomac Flotilla, Nov. 13, 1864.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy. Sir: It has become my painful duty to report to the Department the total destruction of the United States steamer Tulip, by a boiler explosion, on Friday evening last, off Ragged Point, in the Potomac river.

Of a complement of fifty seven officers and men, ten only were saved, two of whom have since died. The Tulip left St Inigoes by my orders on Friday afternoon, bound to the United States Navy Yard, Washington, for the purpose of having her starboard boiler repaired, which was reported by Chief Engineer Reilly to be in an unsafe condition. She started with steam on her port boiler only, and her senior engineer was cautioned by Chief Engineer Reilly not to get steam on the starboard one under any circumstances. As will be seen by the accompanying reports, [disobedience of these orders] led to the terrible explosion. Very respectfully, your obedient servant.

FOXHALL A. PARKER Comd'r, Comd'g. Potomac Flotilla.

Accompanying the above are reports from John Davis, acting master's mate, and R. M. Wagstaff, acting ensign and engineer officer. The explosion took place near Ragged Point, between six and seven o'clock in the evening, and the wreck went down in two or three minutes afterwards. The following is the report of the officer who was sent to search for the remains of the unfortunate crew:

U. S. STEAMER JUNIPER. Potomac Flotilla, November 13, 1864.

SIR: In obedience to your orders of the 12th instant, I proceeded to Ragged Point in search of the bedies and remains of the United States steamer Tulip, which was blown up by steam on the eve of the 11th instant off that point. I sent our two boats and landed on the beach where I found large fragments of her remains. I found a trunk belonging to Acting Master's Mate Reynolds of that vessel, a value belonging to the pilot, a coat, beg, and several blue shirts, and a number of officers' caps. I also found two sponges, a lot of signal flags, and a package of letters marked United States steamer Tulip. Large portions of her deck, the top of her pilot house, and her first cutter lay on the beach; but up to the present time I have not hear, ble to find any holder. not been able to find any bodies Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

PHILIP SHERIDAN. Acting Ensign Commanding.

P. S. I should have mentioned that the cutter referred above was entirely stove, and that I found some of the ribs and knees of the Tulip on shore, showing that that vessel was completely blown to pieces.

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

The question which has egitated Europe, under the above name, has reached a final settlement by the signature of a treaty on the 30th ultimo. The treaty now only awaits the ratification of the Daniel Rigeraad, which was to meet on the 7th instant.

By the terms of this treaty Denmark cedes the three Duchies of Schleswig, Holstein, and Lauenburg to the victors, and pays to the Duchies a fixed sum (about eight and a half millions of rigedalars) for their claims to the mon property of the former Danish wig and Holstein will be held by the Prussians and Austrians until the German Diet shall have decided the rival claims of the Prince of Augustenburg and the Grand Duke of Oldenburg to succession in the two Duchies, and Denmark will also pay for the shipping captured and destroyed by her fleet. The Prussian troops will evacuate Schleswig-Holstein twenty-one days after the ratification of the

This question will in all likelihood adjust finally the question which has so long agitated Europe. The principle involved is that of the "aspiration of nationalities," to use a ph ase of the French Emperor-a principle which is likely to bear a great part in the adjustment of the map of Europe. It is understood that Holsrein and Lauenburg are generally favorable to the German rule, while tre population of Schleswig is only in some part Danish, and will readily submit to the dismemberment. Denmark may be pitied for her failure to command the territory claimed by her, but she has been obliged to succumb to the greater military power of Austria and Prussia, and to the Germanic leanings of a part of her own subjects .- Cam Admirtiser.

ALLEGED DETENTION OF SOLDIERS' VOTES.

From the Albany (N. Y.) Argus.

Seven hundred soldiers' votes, which were sent through the mails to their friends in Cayuga county, did not reach their destination on election day. Hundreds of letters were received from soldiers stating that they had sent their votes to them. The letters were received in good season, but the proxice did not come. It was also known that seventy two soldiers' votes were sent through the post office to Seneca Falls, forty of which were from the First Veteran Cavalry. These votes did not reach their destination, though letters were received from the men announcing that they had sent them. Letters could be sent through days before the election, but packages containing the Democratic ticket lost their way.

THE CREW OF THE FLORIDA.

Yesterday morning eleven officers of the privateer Florida were sent to this city from Point Lookout. They presented a very neat and clean appearance, being dressed in full uniform, with an abundance of gold bands and lace around their caps and sleeves. The following is a list of their names: Wm. Ahem, first assistant engineer; G. D. Bryan, master; J. B. Bronin, second assistant engineer; I. Emery, assistant surgeon; I. F. Hunter, master; W. D. Hough, mid-shipman; T. K. Porter, first lieutenant; S. G. Stone, lieutenant; G. T. Sinclair, midshipman; W. S. Thompson chief engineer; R. S. Floyd, master: also, a citizen found on the Florida named Wm. Dulaney. They were all com-mitted to the Old Capitol prison as prisoners of war.

All the citizens of Alexandria (Va.) who have recently been employed as train guards have been released, and heavy defails from the guerrilla prisoners in our hands will in future be used for the same precautionary purpose

CALIFOENIA, OREGON, AND NEVADA. SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 9 -Twenty-one thousand votes

re polled in this city. Mr. Lincoln's majority is five thousand. Returns from twenty-four counties show a maority for Lincoln of 13,266. Full returns will increase this o at least 20,000. Oregon has gone for Lincoln by from 1,500 to 2 000.

Nevada has gone for Lincoln by from 2,000 to 3,000. The election every where passed off quietly. SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 10 .- The three Union candidates

for Congress are elected.

Nevada elects a Union State government and Congress nan by three thousand majority.

DESTRUCTION OF THE ORANGE AND ALEX-ANDRIA RAILROAD Gen. Slough and staff arrived in Washington on Monday

from the front, where he has been for the past ten days, superintending the taking up of the Orange and Alexandria railroad. This road will, perhaps, now be abandoned, but the cars will run as far out as Union Mills, about sixteen miles from Alexandria.

ARMY GENERAL ORDER, No. 282.

Acceptance of the Fesignation of Gen. McClellan

and Promotion of Gen. Sheridan.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, November 14, 1864.

ORDERED BY THE PRESIDENT :

I. That the resignation of George B. McClellan, as Major General in the United States Army, dated November 8, and received by the Adjutant General on the 10th instant, be accepted as of the 8th of November.

II. That for the personal gallantry, multary shill, and ust confidence in the courage and patriotism of his troops, lisplayed by Philip H. Sheridan, on the 19 h day of October, at Crdar Run, whereby, under the blessing of Provi dence, his routed army was reorganized, a great nationa. dis-ster averted, and a brilliant victory achieved over the rebels for the third time in pitched battle within thirty days, Philip H. Sheridan is appointed Major General in the United States Army, to rank as such from the 8th day of November, 1864

By order of the PRESIDENT of the United States: E. D. TOWNSEND, Assistant Arj stant General.

FIVE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

CAPE RACE, NOVEMBER 12, 1864 The steamship Nova Scotian, from Liverpool on the 3d ia Londonderry on the 4th instant, passed this point, en route to Quebec, this afternoon. Her dates are five days later than those already received.

The Index, the Confederate organ in London, gives the following relative to the capture of the Confederate steamer

a telegraphic despatch, dated Lisbon, from Capt. Morris, commander of the Florida, stating that she was captured on the 7th of October by the Federal steamer Wachusett, in the harbor of Bahia, Brazil. At the time of the capture the Florida was lying under the guns of the Brazilian forts and the Brazilian fleet, and Capt. Morris was on shore. He is now on board the steamer Magdalens, bound for Southampton."

The London Morning Herald editorially denounces the capture of the Florida in the most indignant terms.

The London Times says: "The capture of the Confederate steamer Fiorida in the harbor of a friendly State was an act of simple piracy. When within a neutral port she should have been perfectly safe from molestation."

The London Herald says that if the Washington Government does not release the Florida all the maritime Powers will have the right to interfere in the matter. The Invalide Russe asserts that the visit of the Crar to

Nice was simply an act of courtesy, and devoid of any political object. Russia prefers liberality of action and desires no alliances.

The Emperor of Russia arrived at Potedam on the 2d instant on a visit to the King of Prussis, and would remain intil the 5th

The Emperor Napoleon, after his interview with the Czar, quitted Nice on the morning of the 29th for Toulon, at which place he reviewed the equadron and witnessed a sham attack on the town. On the following day he started for Paris, via Marseilles and Lyons. It was reported the Czar would not visit Paris.

The different articles of the treaty of peace were signed at Vienna on the 27th ultimo, and the final signature of the treaty itself took place on Sunday, the 30th. The Danish Rigsraad was to meet on the 7th November for the ratification of the treaty. It is asserted that the round sum to be paid by Denmark to satisfy the claims of the Duchies on the public property will amount to eight and a half million of rigsdalers, and that she will also have to pay an indemnity for all the captured shipping. Success of the Alli s in Japan.

SHANGHAL SEPT. 21 -The allies have successfully attacked Prince Negato's forts in the straits of Shunowesski with trifling loss. The Japanese have sued for peace. It is reported they will open the strait. Terrific Cyclone at Calcutta.

By telegraph from Suc2 we have the following :

CALCUTTA, OCT 6 -A terrific cyclone broke over here cesterday, causing enorm us destruction of property. A very great number of vess-le in the river were driven from their moorings, some of them being stranded Another despatch states that during the cyclene one

bundred and fi ty ships were driven from their moornings, stranded, and damaged. There has been no se ious lo s of European lives, and but little valuabe carg jeoparded, t great loss in river craft The London Shipping Gazette says: "Of two burdred

v-ss is in the Hooghy, nineteen are reported to have been totally lost, and of the remainder twenty only are reported to be sea-worthy. The news has caused much excitement among marine insurance companies in this city. It is impossible at present to form any estimate of the extent of these losses, but th reas every appearance of its, being very large" There was great excitement at Lloyd's. Several of the

nail steamers were stranted and otherwise damaged. Among the ships lost are several Am-rican

Paris Nov. 1 - the Paris p-pers publish a telegram from Calcutta, giving the following details of the des runtion caused by the late hurricane at Calcutta: Oue hundred and ten ships were wrecked and twelve thousand persons drowned. The total loss is estimated at 200 000,000 france. A great portion of the city was inundated, and the villages bordering on the river were under water.

THE COMFORT OF PRISONERS.

Proposal of the Rebel Authorities to Purchase Blankets in the North.

A Richmond letter gives the following particulars of the arrangement which has been entered into be ween the Confederate and United States Governments to supply the prisoners of each with food and clothing It says: "I am glad to have it in my power to state tout, in view

of the fact that a large number of prisoners will pro-bably be held in captivity by both bellig-reats during the coming winter, Juage Ould, Confederate commissioner of exchange, has proposed to the Federal Secretary of War and Major Muliord, the assistant commissioner on the part of the United States, that each Government shall have the privilege of forwarding, for the use and comfort of such of its prisoners as are beid by the other, all necessary articles of food and clothing, and that Gen. Grant has notified Gen. Lee of the acceptance of the proposition. The de-tails of the agreement have not yet been fixed, but it is understood that it will include necessary clothing and blankets, and rations of meat, bread, coffee, sugar, pickles, vinegar, and tobacco.

"Judge Ould suggested that it would be necessary that

the Confederate authorities should make purchase of these articles outside the limits of the Confederate States and then ship them to one of the Federal ports, since it would be impraticable to send the stores by flag of truce boats-the supplies thus sent to be considered as being in addition to such rations as are furnished by the Government which has the prisoners in custody. To this Gen. Grant replies:
"In the proposition submitted by Judge Ould I see no one
"Hat the proposition submitted by Judge Ould I see no one

"In the proposition submitted by Judge Ould I see no one thing to object to. I shall be perfectly willing to receive at any place held by the Federal troops all clothing or designations sent for the une of prisoners in our hands, provided the same privilege is extended for supplying the wants of those held by Confederate authorities. No objection will be urged to receiving supplies for like distribution at any of our Northern proper direct from Europe or to allowing supplicases in Northern ports direct from Europe, or to allowing purchases in North-ern cities for the same purpose.

"Such is the spirit of the entire correspondence, which is highly honorable to all the parties concerned in it. Gen. Grant suggests that a commissioned officer of each party be selected from among the prisoners of war, whose duty it shall be to receive and receipt for all articles sent for distribution, and who shall see that they are distributed according to the wishes of those sending them, and to this

suggestion Gen. Lee gives his ready assect.
"Upon consultation with Gen. Lawton, the Quartermaster General, it was ascertained that clothing cannot be purchased in Europe and delivered to our prisoners in the North before the middle of January or first of February next; and, in that view, as blankets are their first and greatest need, Judge Ould has recommended to Mr. Seddon, the Secretary of War, the immediate purchase of thirty thousand pairs to be made in a Northern city. He suggests, also, that the Federal authorities be asked to allow us to ship an amount of cotton from Wilmington, or some other port, sufficient to make the purchase. Mr. Seddon approves of the recommendation and sugges-tion, and has authorized Judge Ould to proceed at once to

W. W. Wade, of the Amoskeng Gun Works, Manchester, has perfected a breech-loading rifls which throws four-teen builets without reloading. The piece weighs only eight pounds.